



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

No. 87

Senate

The Senate met at 4:07 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning hour be deemed expired.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the time for the two lead-

ers be reserved for their use later in the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. STABENOW. As if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Davis nomination be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24; further, that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session of the Senate ripen upon disposition of the Davis nomination, and that if any of the nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 811, 888, 889, and 890; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid

upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Rebecca Eliza Gonzales, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with rank of Ambassador; Flor Romero, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring December 1, 2025; Christine M. Kim, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026; and Karen Ann Stout, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 350, S. 4261, H.R. 7688, and H.R. 7790.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I understand that there are four bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for a second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 350) to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2629

of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

A bill (S. 4261) to suspend duties and other restrictions on the importation of infant formula to address the shortage of infant formula in the United States, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 7688) to protect consumers from price-gouging of consumer fuels, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 7790) making emergency supplemental appropriations to address the shortage of infant formula in the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Ms. STABENOW. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Washington be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from May 19, 2022, through May 23, 2022.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. HALE-CUSANELLI

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed the immediate consideration of S. Res. 645 which was submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 645) to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Hale-Cusanelli.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the next criminal trial arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, is scheduled to begin on May 23, 2022, in Federal district court in the District of Columbia. The defendant in this case is charged with five counts: obstructing the counting by Congress of the electoral ballots for President and Vice President; entering and remaining in a restricted area within the U.S. Capitol grounds; unlawful parading, demonstrating, and picketing; and two counts of engaging in disorderly and disruptive conduct.

The prosecution has requested trial testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, related to the obstruction count, including his knowledge and observations of the process and constitutional and legal bases for Congress's certification of the Electoral College

vote. The prosecution is also seeking testimony at trial, if necessary, from Nate Russell and Diego Torres, custodians of records in the Senate Recording Studio, which operates under the authority of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, to authenticate Senate video of the proceeding that day. Senate Secretary Berry and Senate Sergeant at Arms Gibson would like to cooperate with these requests by providing relevant testimony in this proceeding from Messrs. Schwager, Russell, and Torres, respectively.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, this resolution would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Messrs. Schwager, Russell, and Torres, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Ms. STABENOW. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 645) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022, THROUGH TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for a pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on the following date and time: Monday, May 23, at 1:45 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, May 23, it next convene at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 24; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lindenbaum nomination; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

ENERGY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, to the fans of the Alaskan of the Week series, I regret to say this is not going to be an Alaskan of the Week speech. Stay tuned. We will have more. Sorry to the pages. I know this is their favorite speech of the week.

Actually, unfortunately, regrettably, Mr. President, this is what I am referring to as an anti-Alaskan of the Week speech, and you are going to understand why here in a minute because I want to talk right now in the Senate about what everybody else in America is talking about when you actually leave the bubble of the beltway and you go home.

I was home last weekend. I try to get home almost every weekend. What are people talking about? They are talking about inflation; they are talking about the high cost of everything; they are talking about formula; and, of course, Mr. President, they are really talking about the high cost of energy that is crushing working families in our Nation—certainly in my State but all over the country.

A few stats on that: We have now had 10 days in a row of record high gas prices. In Alaska, we hit \$5 a gallon for the first time ever at the pump. Remember, at the end of the Trump administration, gas was \$2.39 a gallon. During the Biden years—not even a year and a half—it is up 91 percent—91 percent. The price of natural gas in America doubled last year. This is having a devastating impact on Americans across the board but particularly working families, middle-class families, people on fixed incomes.

Now, the President keeps saying that he is doing all he can to address this problem of high energy costs in America. The Secretary of Energy today testified in front of the Armed Services Committee. She said that the administration is doing all it can to increase supplies of oil and gas in America.

Respectfully, to the President, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior: None of this is true. It is not even close, and I see it on a daily basis back home in Alaska. And here is the thing: The American people know it is not true. The American people know it is not true.

This wasn't last weekend when I was home; this was about 4 weekends ago. I was filling up my truck. Actually, it was three-quarters empty. So my truck was on one-quarter full, an F-150. It cost me almost \$110 to fill that up. Had the truck been empty, it would have been \$142 to fill that up. By the way, now that we have had these increases at the pump since 4 or 5 weeks ago, the estimate—if you own an F-150 and it is 5 bucks a gallon, it is about \$150 to fill up your truck.